

# Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on  
Wildlife and Fisheries

June 9, 2016



# Proposed Orders

- For Action- NRC
  - Furbearer Regulations (Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2016)
  - Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish and Lake Herring Regulations (Fisheries Order 200)



# NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
- Wildlife Chief Update
- Hunter Access Program
- Deer Harvest Survey Report- 2015  
Seasons Update



A photograph of several fishing rods leaning over a body of water at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow and a reflection on the water. The rods are silhouetted against the bright sky.

# Department of Natural Resources

## Fisheries Division

Chief's Update

Jim Dexter

June 9, 2016



# Chumming





# Platte River



# Joint Lake Michigan / Lake Huron Advisory Committee

Wednesday, June 22 – Jay's in Clare





# Cabela's Pro Walleye Tournament Issue







**Questions?**

# Wildlife Chief Update

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**Russ Mason**  
**Chief**  
**Wildlife Division**



# Wildlife Chief Update

- Wildlife Habitat Grants
- Shiawassee Siphon Tube Replacement
- 90 day Moose finding from USFWS
- New Wildlife Health Supervisor
  - Kelly Straka
- Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)
- Cormorants





# Thank You





# Hunting Access Program



**Mike Parker**

**Conservation Partners Program Specialist**

**DNR Wildlife Division**

# Partnership Connecting Agencies, NGO's, Landowners & Hunters





# What is HAP?

- DNR leases private land to increase public hunting opportunities
  - Focus in areas with limited public hunting
- **Leases for hunting only**
  - Does not include other activities
  - 3 year contract
- Landowners receive annual payment based upon number of acres enrolled, habitat quality and type(s) of hunting allowed
- **No special license or fee for hunters**

# Why is HAP Important?

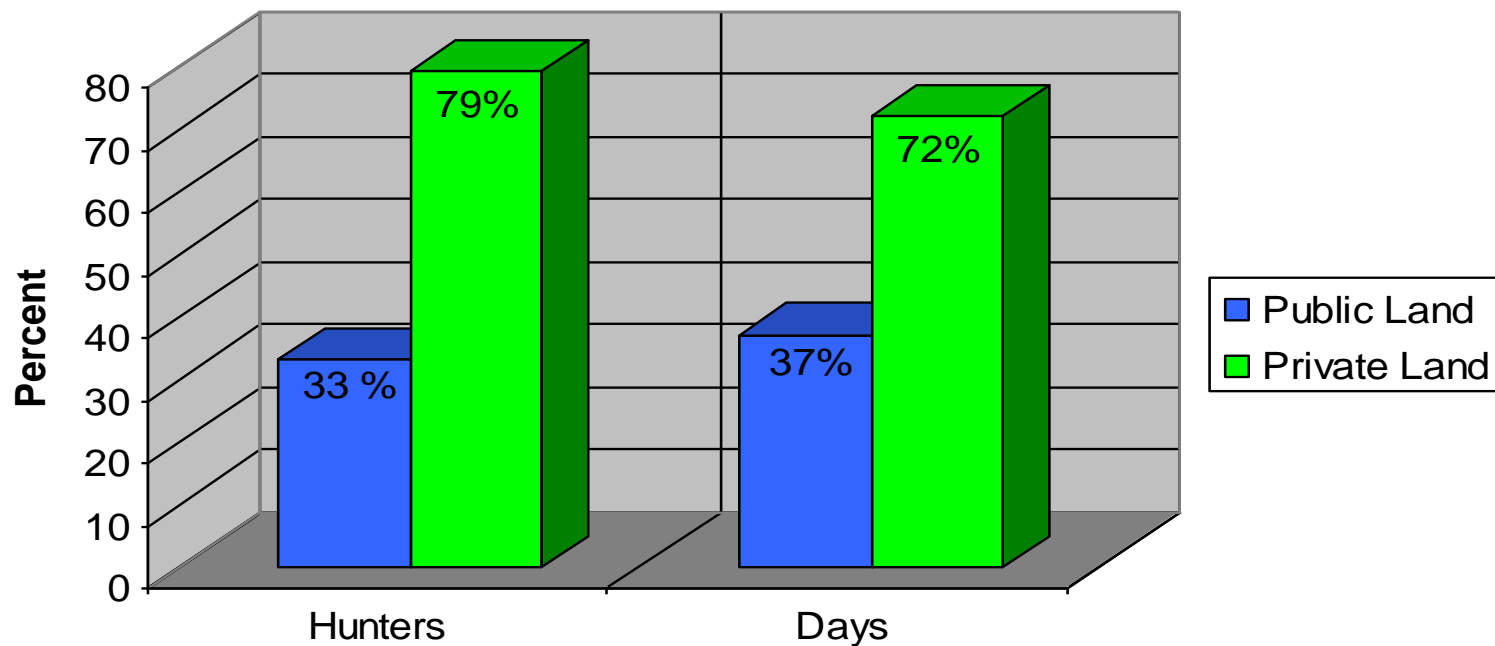
- **Hunter recruitment, retention & reactivation**
  - Hunting Heritage Committee identified access as one of the top issues causing declining participation
- **Opportunities close to home**
- **Help control nuisance wildlife or disease transmission**
  - Funding for landowners with issues!
- **Hunter preference for private lands**



# Hunting in Michigan

## The Importance of Private Lands\*

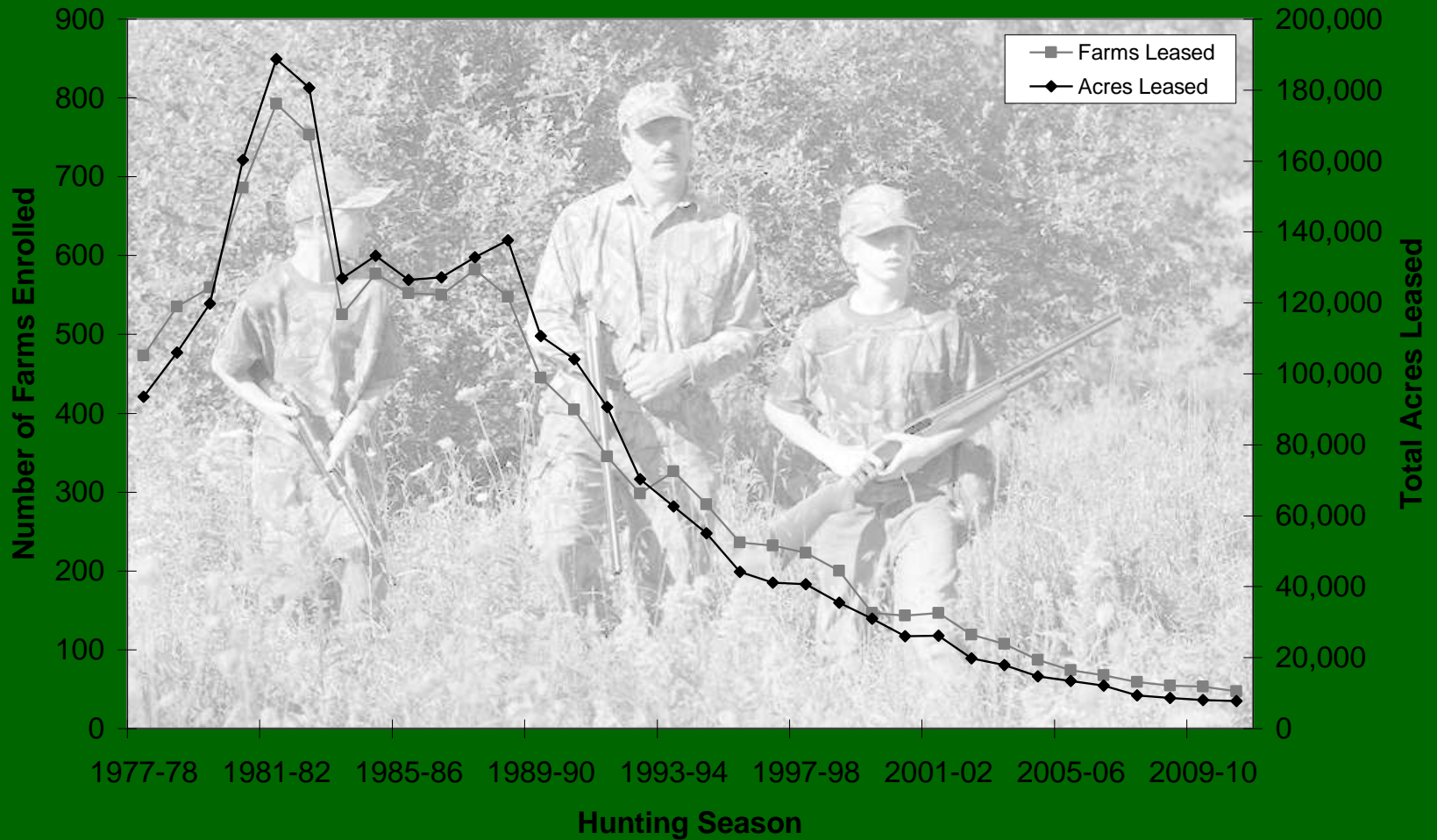
Hunters and Days of Hunting in Michigan  
by Type of Land





# HAP Historical Enrollment

Hunter Access Program enrolled farms and acres leased  
1977 - 2011



# What Caused HAP to decline?

- **Loss of Dedicated Funding**
  - 1977: Public Access Stamp Program
    - \$1 stamp required by all hunters in southern MI
- 1984: \$0.35 of each license sold in Zone 3
  - Ended in 1990's
- **Lease rates not increased 1996 to 2011**
  - Not competitive with private leases
- **Lack of staff to support**
- **Urban sprawl**
  - Many farms lost to development

# How is HAP Funded?

- Game & Fish Fund
- **Pittman-Robertson Funds**
- Voluntary Public Access & Habitat Incentive Program Grants
  - New in 2010 Farm Bill Program
  - Administered by USDA



# How Does VPA-HIP help?

## VPA-HIP Grant from USDA

- Allows for competitive lease rates
- Contracts with Conservation Districts
- Funds for habitat work
- Increased LED presence
- HAP Coordinator
- Marketing



# HAP History: 2011 to 2015

- **2011 VPA Grant - \$900,000**
- **Increased lease rates paid to landowners**
  - Up to \$25/acre
  - Average: \$12.53/acre
  - Past average \$5-6
- **Increased flexibility for landowners**
  - **Hunting options**
    - All hunting, small game, turkey, deer, youth & apprentice, sharp-tail
- **Developed partnerships**
  - MI Dept. Agriculture & Rural Development
  - Conservation Districts

# HAP 2011-15 Continued:

- Increased enrollment to 170 properties and 20,089 acres
  - 2010: 47 properties & 7,400 acres
- **Surveyed hunters and landowners to learn how to improve**
  - *Both hunters and landowners are very positive!*
- Modernized HAP For Today's Technology
  - Webpage, property maps, Mi-Hunt
  - Available via mobile or online
  - Eliminated HAP Digest



# 2014 & 2015: Big Years for HAP!

- 2014 received 2<sup>nd</sup> VPA-HIP grant for \$1.2 million
  - Goal to increase enrollment to 24,000 acres
  - Expanded to EUP with sharp-tail and small game emphasis
  - Habitat restoration a new goal
  - Only 9 of 30+ states were awarded funds
- 2015 received 3<sup>rd</sup> VPA-HIP grant for \$953,000 to expand to NLP
  - Goal of 10,000 new acres
  - Agricultural (Bovine TB) area in NE and orchards in NW



## Eligible HAP Counties in 2014 & 2015:

## 2014 Opened Portion of EUP:

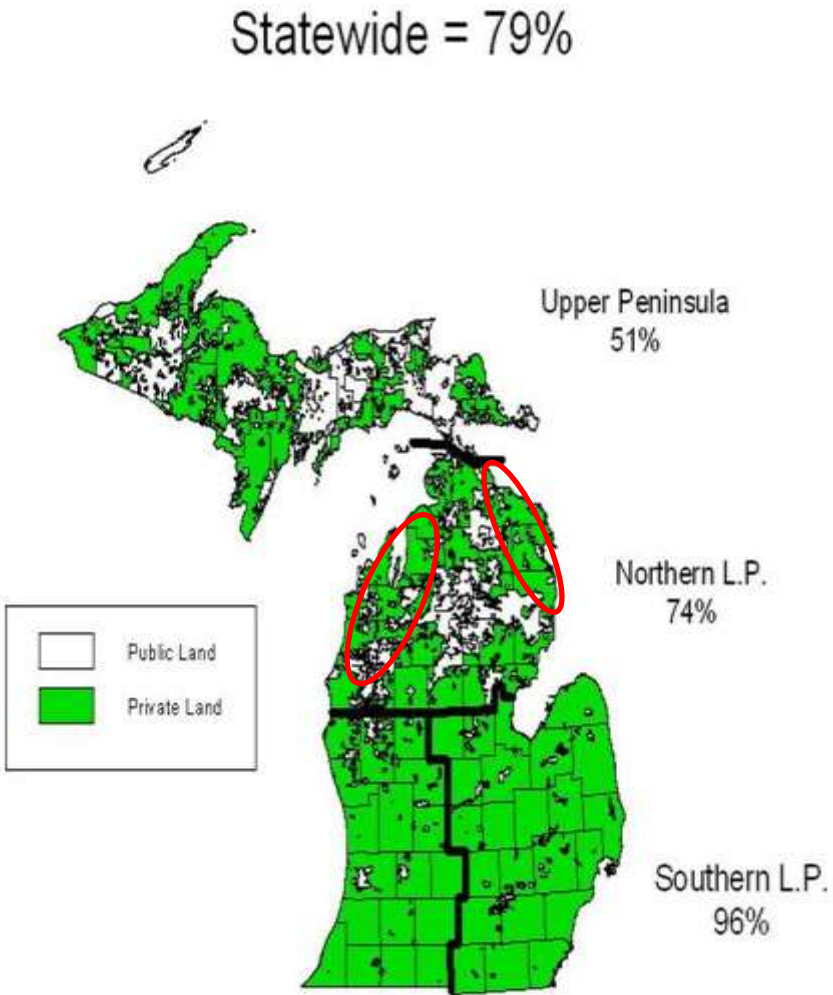
- **Sharp-tailed grouse**
- **Small game hunting**

## Current Enrollment:

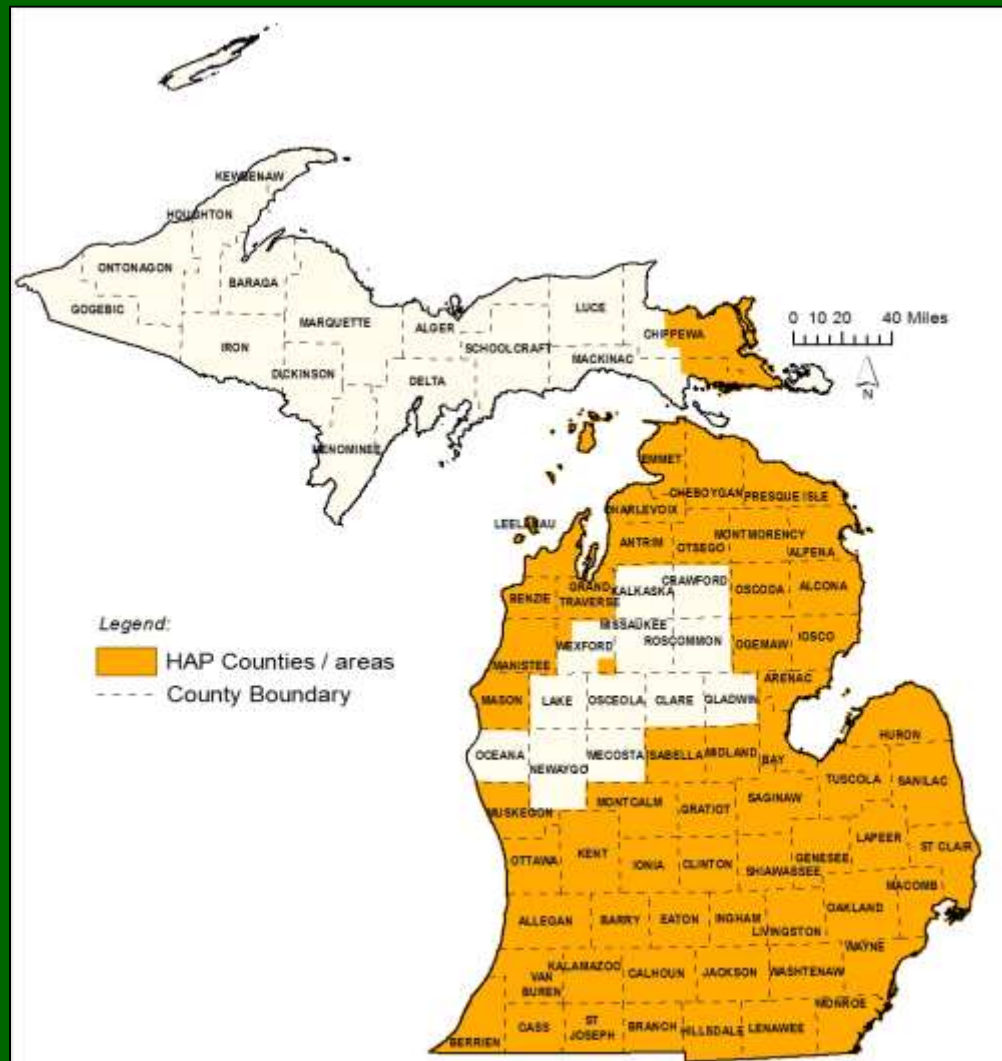
- **19 properties**
- **4,089 acres**



# TB zone & Agricultural Areas of NLP



## 2016 Eligible HAP Counties:



# **HAP Landowner Survey:**

## *Southwick Associates*

Surveyed all HAP landowners in 2012

- Overall Landowner Satisfaction
  - 88%: satisfied (55%) or very satisfied (33%)
- **Why Enroll in HAP:**
  - **Liability Protection (59%)**
  - **Payment/Income (56%)**
- If Dissatisfied, What Should Change:
  - Increase payment (69%)



# Liability Coverage: Public Act 451

*“No cause of action shall arise for injuries to persons hunting on lands leased under HAP unless the injuries were caused by the gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct of the owner, tenant, or lessee”*

# 2013 DNR HAP Hunter Survey:

1,634 hunters surveyed from registration forms in HAP boxes

- **Estimated # HAP Hunters:**
  - 6,600
- **Number of HAP Hunter Days:**
  - 46,419
- **Amount Spent Per Hunter on HAP:**
  - \$262/hunter/year
- **Economic Impact:**
  - \$1.9 Million



# HAP Hunter Survey Continued:

- Primary reason hunters used HAP:
  - Close to home (64%)
  - No other private land to hunt (62%)
  - Limited time to find other places (56%)
- Primary Species Hunted:
  - Deer (74%)
- Secondary Species:
  - Pheasant, rabbit, squirrel
- Average Trips to HAP:
  - 7.4



# Hunter Survey Continued:

- Plan to Hunt HAP Again:
  - 78%
- How to Improve HAP:
  - Lease more acreage
  - Enhance habitat

*Plan to survey hunters in 2016 & Landowners 2017*





# ***NEW* in 2016:**

## **Habitat Enhancement on HAP Lands**

**High-quality habitat provides increased benefits to wildlife and hunting opportunities**

- **Goal 600+ acres in SLP & EUP**
- **Goal 300+ acres in NLP**




### **Top Priorities:**

- **Activities with visible and fast results**
  - **Grassland restoration and enhancement**
    - CRP mid-contract management
  - **Food plots**
  - **Soft mast (apple) tree plantings**




# HAP Website:

[www.michigan.gov/hap](http://www.michigan.gov/hap)




## Michigan Department of Natural Resources

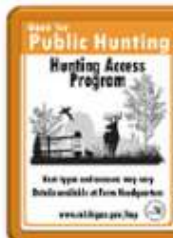


[About the DNR](#)[Camping & Recreation](#)[Commissions, Boards and Committees](#)[Doing Business](#)[Education & Outreach](#)[Fishing](#)[Forestry](#)[Grants](#)[History](#)[Hunting & Trapping](#)[Bear Management Plan](#)[Deer Management Plan](#)[Hunting Applications & Drawings](#)

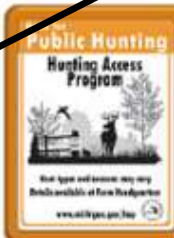
DNR / HUNTING & TRAPPING / WHERE CAN I HUNT? / HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM (HAP)

### Hunting Access Program





**Hunters:**  
Click Here  
For Current  
List Of HAP  
Properties



**Landowners:**  
Click Here To  
Learn How To  
Earn Money  
By Enrolling

Michigan's Hunting Access Program (HAP) was created in 1977 to increase public hunting opportunities in southern Michigan where 97 percent of the land base is privately owned. This program is now one of the oldest dedicated private lands public access programs in the nation.

Providing access to quality hunting lands close to urban properties is a key component to offering additional hunting opportunities, as well as attracting new and retaining current hunters.

HAP provides financial incentives to landowners in southern Michigan who allow hunters





# HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM (HAP) FARM SUMMARY

Revised: December 1, 2014

For additional information on HAP, please visit [www.michigan.gov/hap](http://www.michigan.gov/hap)

? Have you tried MI-HUNT, the interactive huntable-lands map tool at [www.michigan.gov/mihunt](http://www.michigan.gov/mihunt)

## To Reach HAP Property Maps:

\* [Click here for a State-wide map of all the current HAP farms.](#)

\* Each **County Name header** (in orange) contains links to county-specific maps.

\* Click on the **Landowner Name** for a detailed map of for each farm; Landowners with multiple properties may have more than one map.

**For help navigating to specific HAP properties:** Lands without a house or building include an approximated address to help hunters navigate close to the headquarters or farm location. Property maps include the specific headquarter location.

## Other important notes:

**Habitat Type:** breakdown in acres: WW = wetland (ducks, geese); FW = forest (deer, squirrel, rabbit, turkey);  
FA = grasslands and brush (pheasant, rabbit, deer); CC = crop land.

**Hunt Types:** Hunting varies by farm. Up to two adults allowed per youth or apprentice hunter on Youth & Apprentice farms.

**Note: Click on landowner name to view aerial photo**



Landowner Name <i>Click/double-click on landowner's name to activate property map</i>	Township, Section	Property Location (Note: " - " means approximated address)	Headquarters (Check-in location, if not at same location)	Hunt Types	Service Type	Hunters Allowed	Total Acres	Habitat Type	Special Notes
<b>Allegan County</b> <a href="#">(click for a simple county map locating these areas)</a> <a href="#">(click to see detailed county map of Allegan County Huntable Lands)</a>									
<a href="#">Bolks, Ervin J.</a>	Heath, 27	near ~ 3989 126th Avenue, Allegan, MI; or off the north side of 126th Avenue, just 1/10 mile east of 41st Street, Dunningville, MI.	(Same as Farm Location)	All	Self-Service Box	8	79	79FW	No Sunday Hunting
<a href="#">Kipen, Loise</a>	Salem, 23	4124 27th Street, Dorr, MI; or west side of 27th Street, about 4/10 mile south of 142nd Avenue, Dorr, MI.	(Same as Farm Location)	All	<b>Mandatory Check-in</b>	4	39	34FW, 5CC	No Sunday Hunting
<a href="#">Madejczyk, Mary</a>	Ganges, 35	near ~ 1375 64th Street, Fennville, MI; or off the east side of 64th Street, 7/10 mile north of 113th Avenue, Fennville, MI.	(Same as Farm Location)	All	Self-Service Box	4	69	1WW, 25FW, 1FA, 42CC	
<b>Arenac County</b> <a href="#">(click for a simple county map locating these areas)</a> <a href="#">(click to see detailed county map of Arenac County Huntable Lands)</a>									
<a href="#">Arenac County</a>	Adams, 3	near ~ 104 highway M-76, Sterling, MI; southwest side of M-76, about 6/10 mile northwest of Bear Creek Road	(Same as Farm Location)	All	Self-Service Box	19	197	22WW, 175FW	No registration box or HQ sign. Park at gate. No hunting Labor Day or Memorial Day.
<a href="#">Arenac County</a>	Arenac, 33	near ~ 2950 State Road, Standish, MI; or off the north side of Arenac State Road, 2 miles north of Pine River Road	(Same as Farm Location)	All	Self-Service Box	4	47	41FW, 6FA	No Hunting Labor Day or Memorial Day.
<a href="#">Boyle, David</a>	Augres, 12; and Sims, 7	845 North Mackinaw Road, AuGres, MI.	(Same as Farm Location)	All	Self-Service Box	6	85	57FW, 28FA	Property access requires shallow river crossing
<a href="#">Dendrick Properties</a>	Turner, 34	800FT East of 1549 Bessinger Road, Turner, MI.	(Same as Farm Location)	Spring Turkey Only	Self-Service Box	4	110	35FW, 65FA	Spring turkey only.

# Property Maps on HAP Website:







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**County map showing HAP properties: [click here](#)**

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[illegible]



# Mi-HUNT:

## DNR's Interactive Mapping Tool



**Mi-HUNT**

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

search address, city, etc...



Clear

Zoom Extents

Navigation Info

Identify





Print

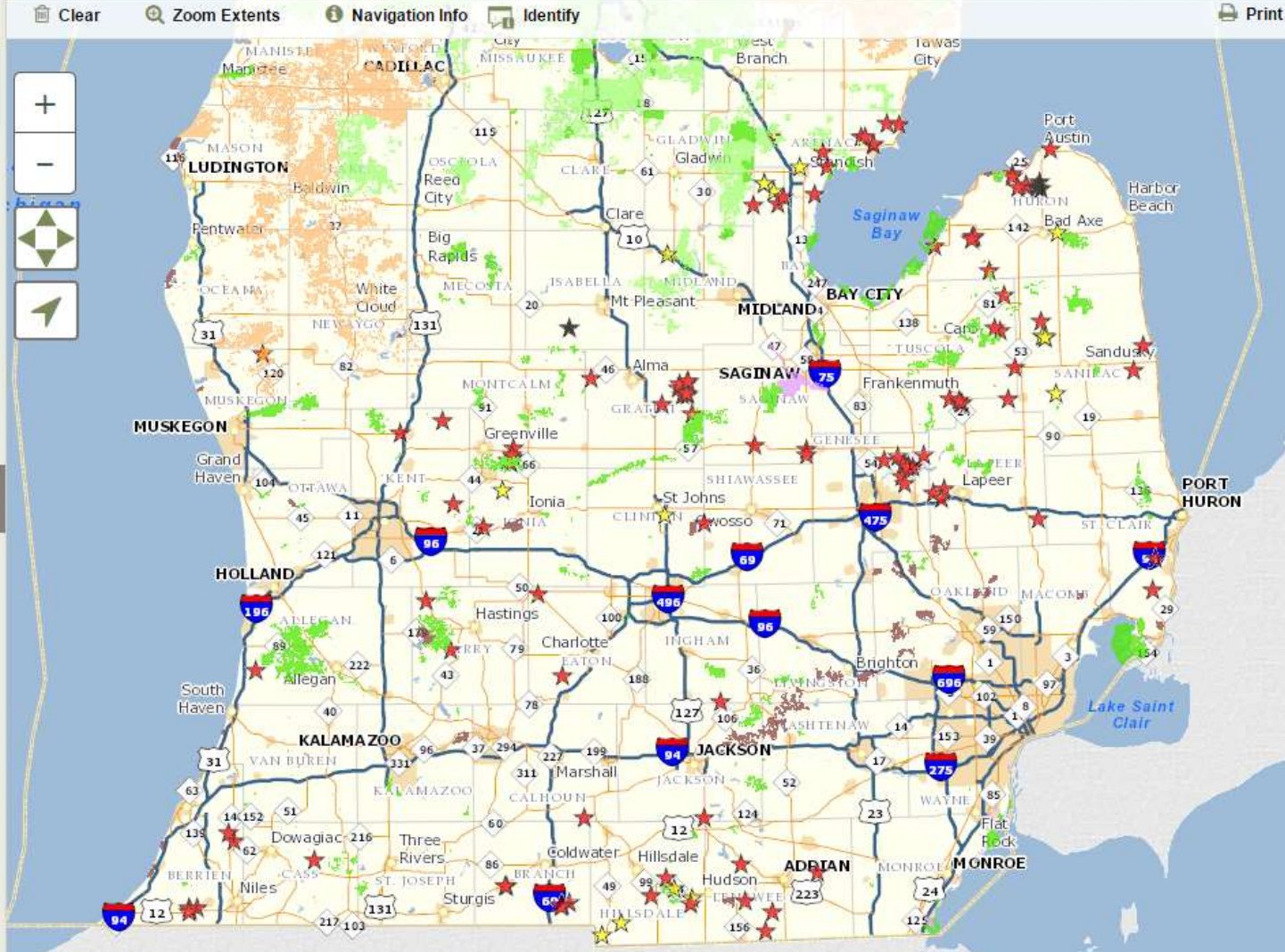


### Mi-HUNT

No matter where you are in Michigan, you can find public hunting land. This interactive mapping application contains the most up-to-date information to help you plan your next hunting trip.

### Instructions

-  Access the Mi-HUNT toolbox to Quick Zoom, Identify, Measure and Add Points on the map.
-  Choose features you want to view on the map.
-  Route to your favorite location.
-  View results from the place search (above) when more than one result is found.



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Michigan Department of Natural Resources

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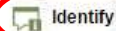


Route to your favorite location.



View results from the place search (above) when more than one result is found.

**Note: State Game Areas also have cover types**




**Click “Identify” to  
get HAP details**

 Print



# Mi-Hunt:

 **Mi-HUNT**  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

search address, city, etc...

Identify

Click on the map to identify general county information.

- ▶ Mi-HUNT Cover Types
- ▶ **HAP Lands**
- ▶ State Game & Wildlife Area
- ▶ County

Map Interface:

- Clear
- Zoom Extents
- Navigation Info
- Identify Active
- Full Extent
- Previous Extent
- Next Extent

Map Labels:

- Ellington Twp
- Novesta Twp
- Deford
- Deckerville Rd
- Dodge Rd
- Cass River
- White Creek
- North Branch White Creek
- Mud Creek
- Cemetery Rd

Map Features:

- Open to All Hunt Types (star icon)
- Open to All Hunt Types (star icon)

Click "HAP Lands" then on the star at the property



# Mi-Hunt:

## ► Mi-HUNT Cover Types

## ▼ HAP Lands

Landowner: W. Kloc ⓘ

Est. Size (acres): 78

Location:  
at 5966 Shabonna Road, Deford.

Station type/info:  
Self-Service check-in station.

#permits or # of hunters  
allowed at any one time: 5  
*This landowner has HAP land on both north and south sides of road.*

Hunt types allowed: Open to All Hunt Types.

### Land Summary:

Total land area = 78 acres (approximately)  
Wetland wildlife = 0 acres (approx.) / 0%  
Forested wildlife = 20 acres (approx.) / 26%  
Farmland wildlife = 10 acres (approx.) / 13%  
Cropland wildlife = 48 acres (approx.) / 61%  
Habitat types are detailed in the HAP digest.

Detailed Map and other info



## STATE OF MICHIGAN - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM (HAP)

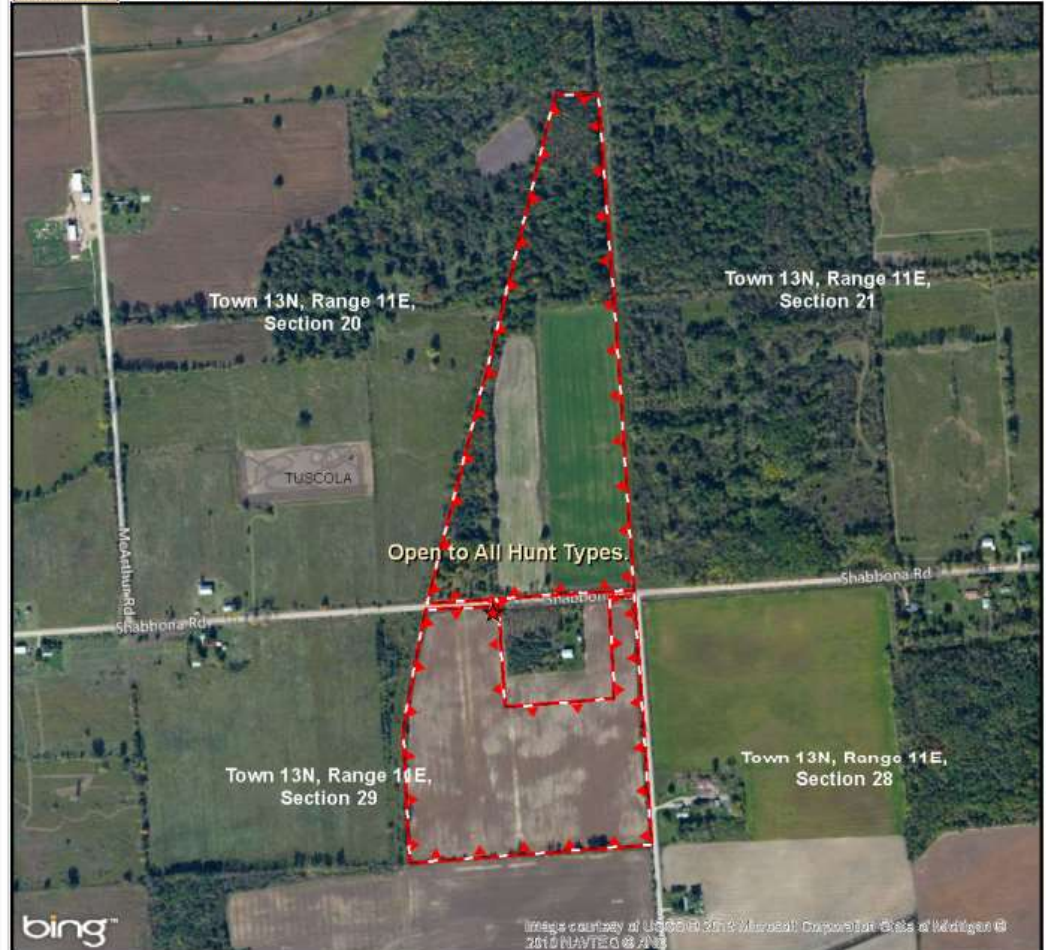


Landowner: W. Kloc  
County: Tuscola  
Township, Section: Novesta, 20 and 29  
Farm Headquarters: at 5966 Shabonna Road, Deford.

Size in Acres: 78

Hunt Types Allowed: Open to All Hunt Types.  
Service Type: Self-Service Station.

Hunters Allowed: 5 This landowner has land on both north and south sides of the road.

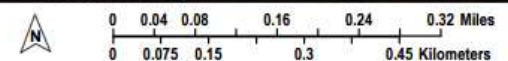


### Legend:

Property Boundary ★ Station &/or Parking Location



For more information on the Hunting Access Program (HAP), more maps, or details on other areas, visit the DNR website HAP section [www.michigan.gov/hap](http://www.michigan.gov/hap) or scan this QR-block (on the left) with your smartphone or similar device.



**HUNTER SAFETY ZONES of 150 yards**  
(450 feet or 137.2 meters) are enforced  
**at ALL TIMES** around all buildings and structures.  
**Be aware of all property boundaries; Do not trespass onto adjacent lands.**  
DNR-Wildlife Division map (WLDV MSLA), revised 2013 Aug 29 HAPF-map\_KlocW1.pdf



# HAP Summary:

- HAP provides critical access to private lands in areas of MI with limited public land
- **Limited access is causing declines in hunting participation**
- Using VPA-HIP funding & conservation districts we plan to increase enrollment to 34,000+ acres.
- **Habitat enhancement will improve hunting opportunities.**
- Working together with partners we will make a difference for hunting and wildlife conservation!





# Questions?



# Estimates for the 2015 Deer Hunting Seasons



Brian Frawley  
Wildlife Division  
June 9, 2016



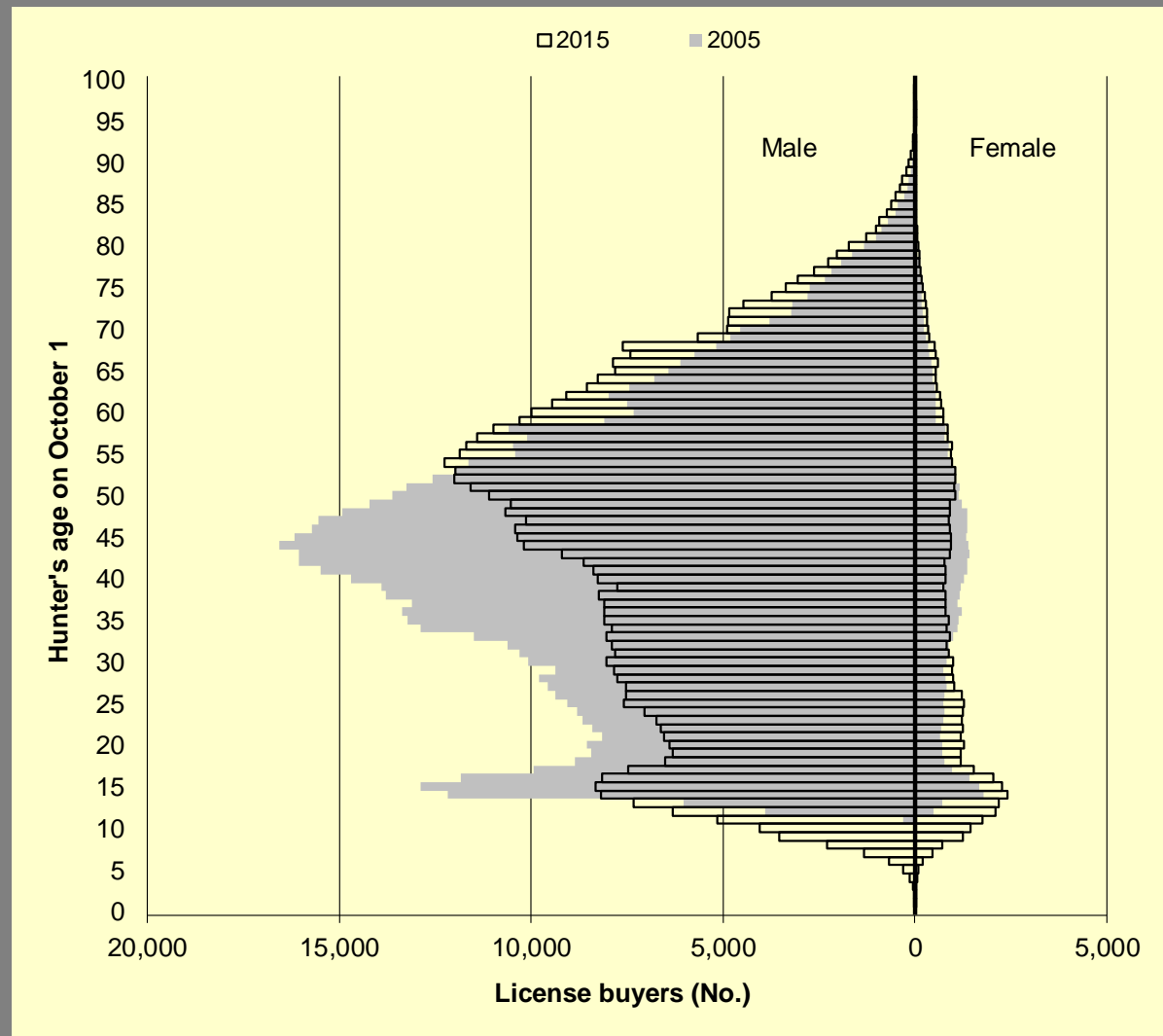
# Number of Michigan Deer Harvest Tags Purchased, 2013-2015

Harvest Tags	Number purchased			Change 2014 and 2015
	2013	2014	2015	
Firearm	263,905	0	0	NA
Archery	54,788	0	0	NA
Deer	0	253,111	252,918	0%
Combination	762,174	741,488	729,456	-2%
Antlerless	427,219	364,277	357,508	-2%
Mentored Youth	24,768	12,959	11,935	-8%
<b>Total Harvest Tags</b>	<b>1,532,854</b>	<b>1,371,835</b>	<b>1,351,835</b>	<b>-2%</b>





**Number of deer hunting license buyers in Michigan by age and sex during 2005 and 2015 hunting seasons. Deer hunting licenses were purchased by 712,466 people in 2005 and 654,579 people in 2015 (8% decline).**

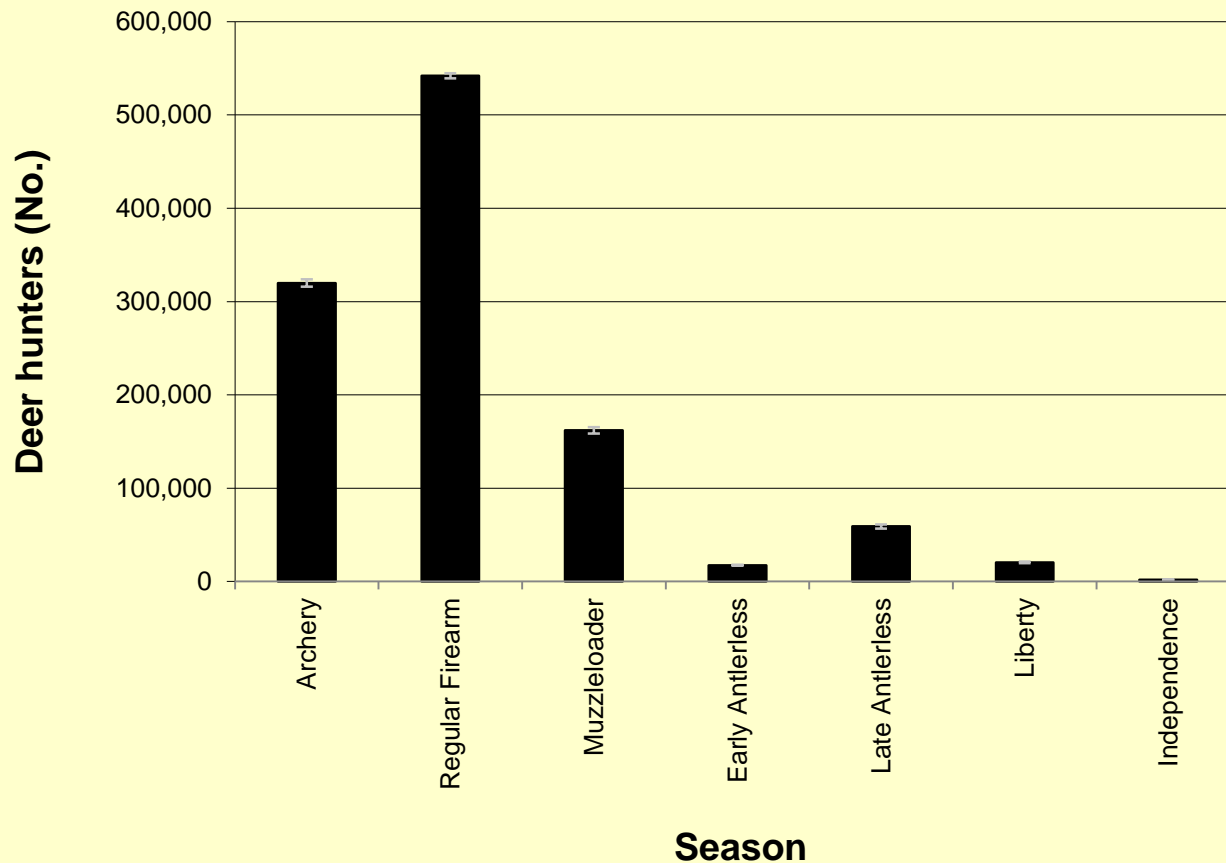


# 2015 Deer Harvest Survey

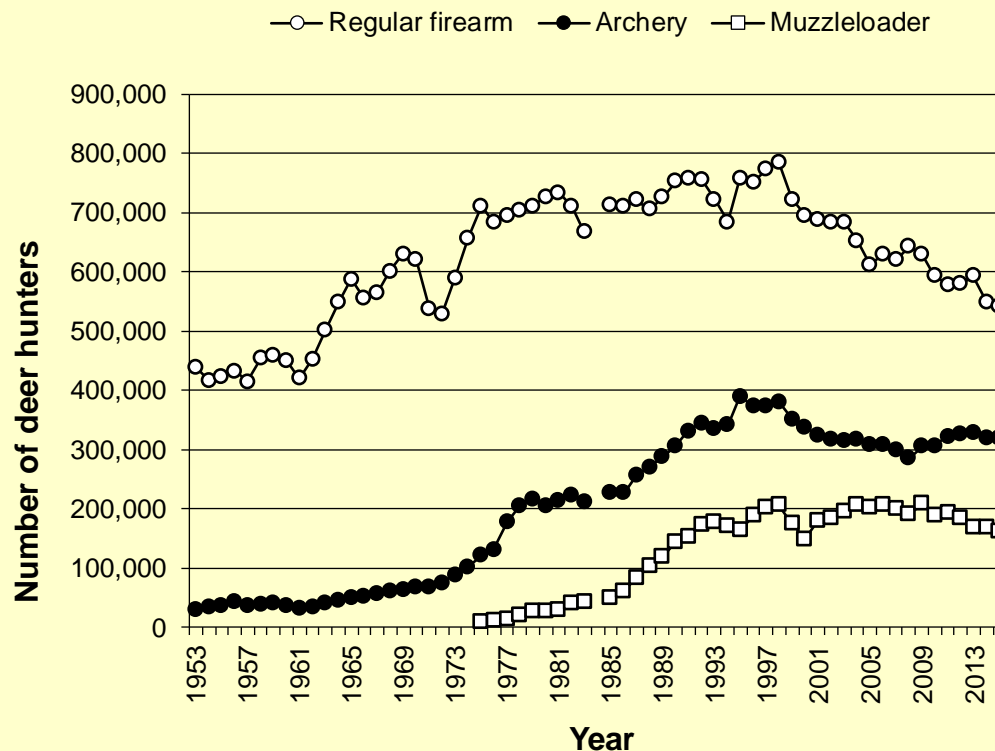
- 654,579 people purchased a license
- 4,221 people provided answers via the internet
- Questionnaires delivered to 58,505 deer license holders
- 49% responded (28,826 people)
- Estimates standardized to be comparable with estimates from previous years



# Estimated Number of People Hunting Deer in Michigan, Summarized by Season



# Estimated Number of People Hunting Deer in Michigan, Long-term Trends (1953-2015)



- Significantly fewer people hunted during the regular firearm season (-1%).
- Archery and muzzleloader season not significantly changed.



# Estimated Number of People Hunting Deer During All Seasons, 2013-2015, Summarized by Region

Region	Number of hunters			Change (%) Between 2014 and 2015
	2013	2014	2015	
Statewide	661,788	614,593	607,113	-1.2%*

\*Statistically significant change.





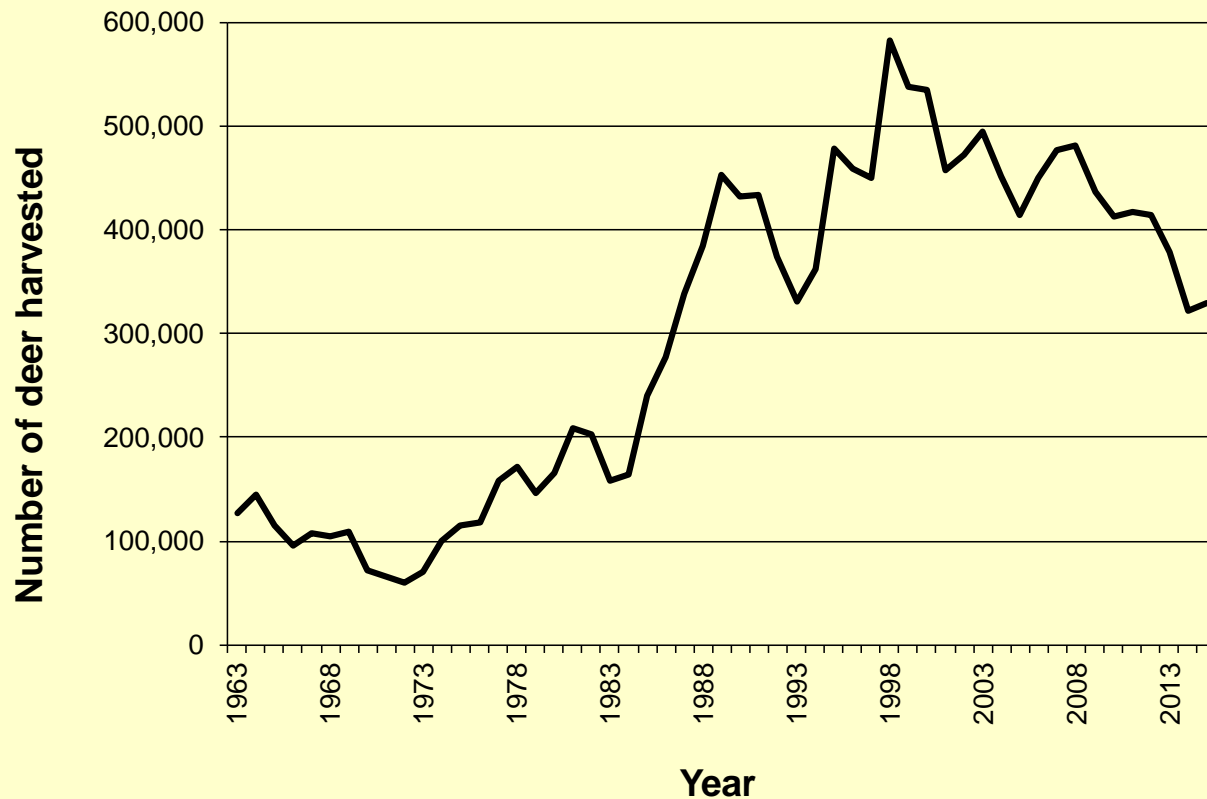
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	2013	2014	2015	
Statewide	661,788	614,593	607,113	-1.2%*
Upper Peninsula (UP)	103,937	84,099	83,174	-1.1%
Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP)	289,262	268,548	263,892	-1.1%
Southern Lower Peninsula (SLP)	334,502	311,748	306,625	-1.6%

\*Statistically significant change.



# Estimated Number of Deer Harvested in Michigan, Long-term Trends (1963-2015)



## Estimated Number of Deer Harvested Statewide, 2013-2015, Summarized by Season & Type of Deer

Season or permit	Type of deer	2013	2014	2015	Change from 2014 to 2015
All Seasons	Antlerless	175,737	144,139	137,073	-5%
	Antlered bucks	203,057	178,228	191,608	8%*

<sup>a</sup>Deer Management Assistance (DMA) permits. These permits could be used during any deer hunting season.

\*Statistically significant change.

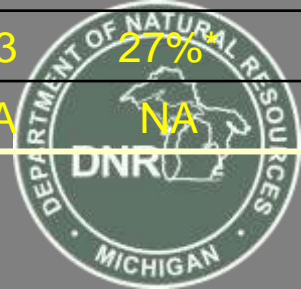


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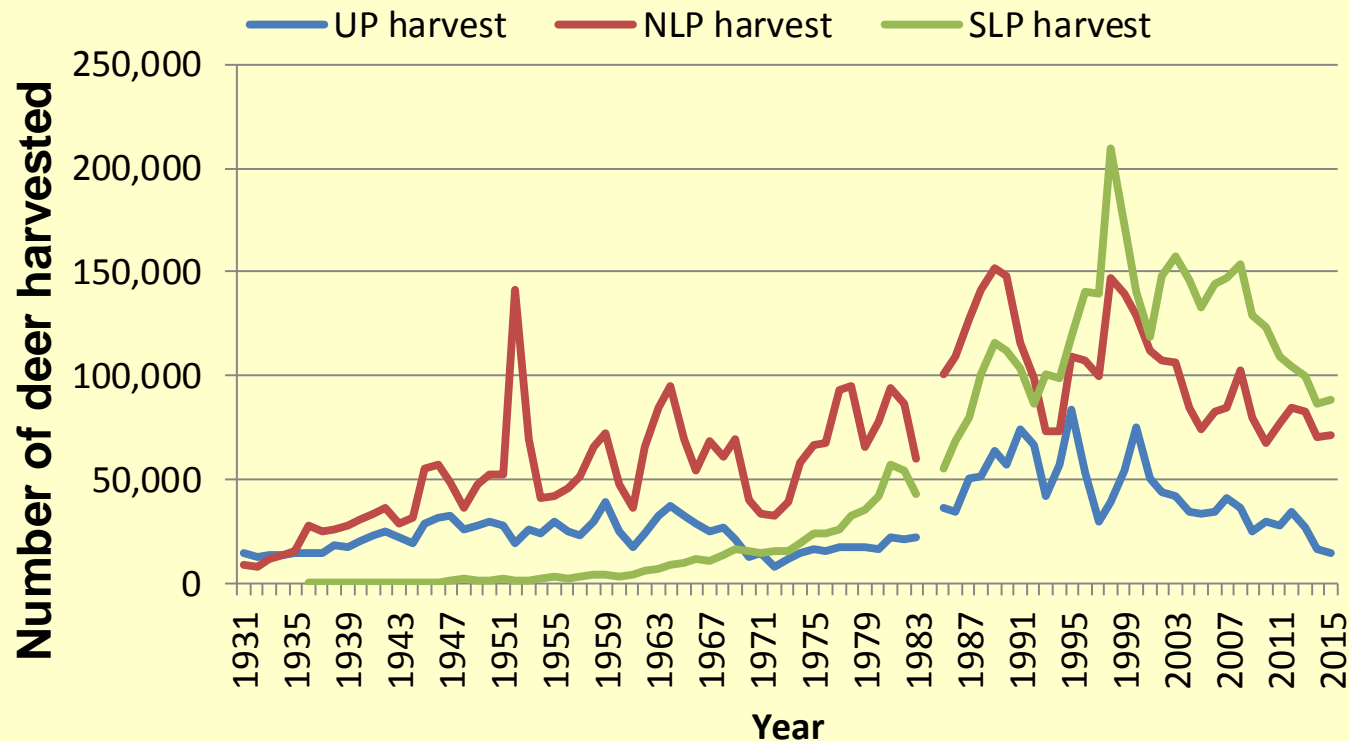
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	Antlered bucks	203,057	178,228	191,608	8%*
Archery	Antlerless	53,890	48,136	42,644	-11%*
	Antlered bucks	62,933	61,886	68,924	11%*
Regular firearm	Antlerless	82,693	67,503	64,553	-4%
	Antlered bucks	125,625	105,258	110,721	5%
Muzzleloader	Antlerless	19,311	13,404	11,959	-11%
	Antlered bucks	9,020	6,816	6,594	-3%*
Early antlerless	Antlerless	5,820	3,086	3,428	11%
Late antlerless	Antlerless	11,228	10,264	12,266	20%
Liberty (Youth)	Antlerless	2,696	1,646	2,118	29%
	Antlered bucks	5,285	4,079	5,163	27%*
DMA permits <sup>a</sup>	Antlerless	6,446	6,673	NA	NA

<sup>a</sup>Deer Management Assistance (DMA) permits. These permits could be used during any deer hunting season.

\*Statistically significant change.

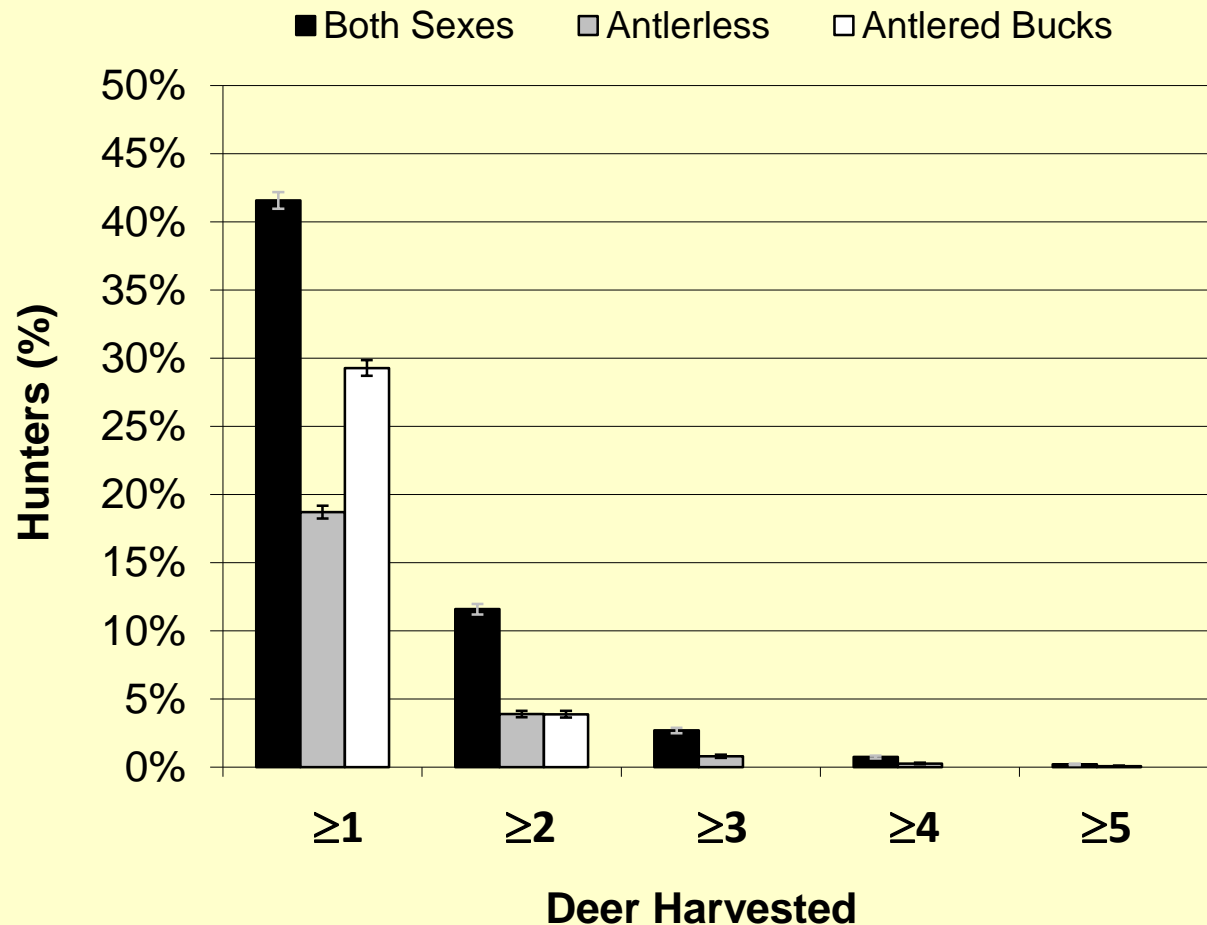


# Estimated Number of Deer Harvested in Regular Firearm Season by Region, Long-term Trends (1931-2015)





# Estimated Percentage of Hunters Harvesting a Deer in Michigan



# Estimated Hunter Success During Michigan Deer Hunting Seasons, Summarized by Hunting Season, 2013-2015

Season	Hunter success (%)			Difference between 2014 and 2015
	2013	2014	2015	
Archery	31	30	30	0%
Regular firearm	32	29	29	0%
Muzzleloader	16	12	11	-1%
Early firearm	18	17	20	3%
Late firearm	19	16	20	4%
Liberty	40	29	37	8%
All seasons	43	41	42	1%

\*Statistically significant change.



# Estimated Hunter Success During All Michigan Deer Hunting Seasons, Summarized by Region, 2013-2015

Region	Hunter success (%)			Difference between 2014 and 2015
	2013	2014	2015	
Statewide	43	41	42	1%

\*Statistically significant change.



# Estimated Hunter Success During All Michigan Deer Hunting Seasons, Summarized by Region, 2013-2015

Region	Hunter success (%)			Difference between 2014 and 2015
	2013	2014	2015	
Statewide	43	41	42	1%
Upper Peninsula	34	27	22	-5%*
Northern Lower Peninsula	38	36	38	2%
Southern Lower Peninsula	44	42	44	2%*

\*Statistically significant change.



# Proportion of hunters satisfied with the number of deer seen, deer harvested, and their overall deer hunting experience, 2014-2015

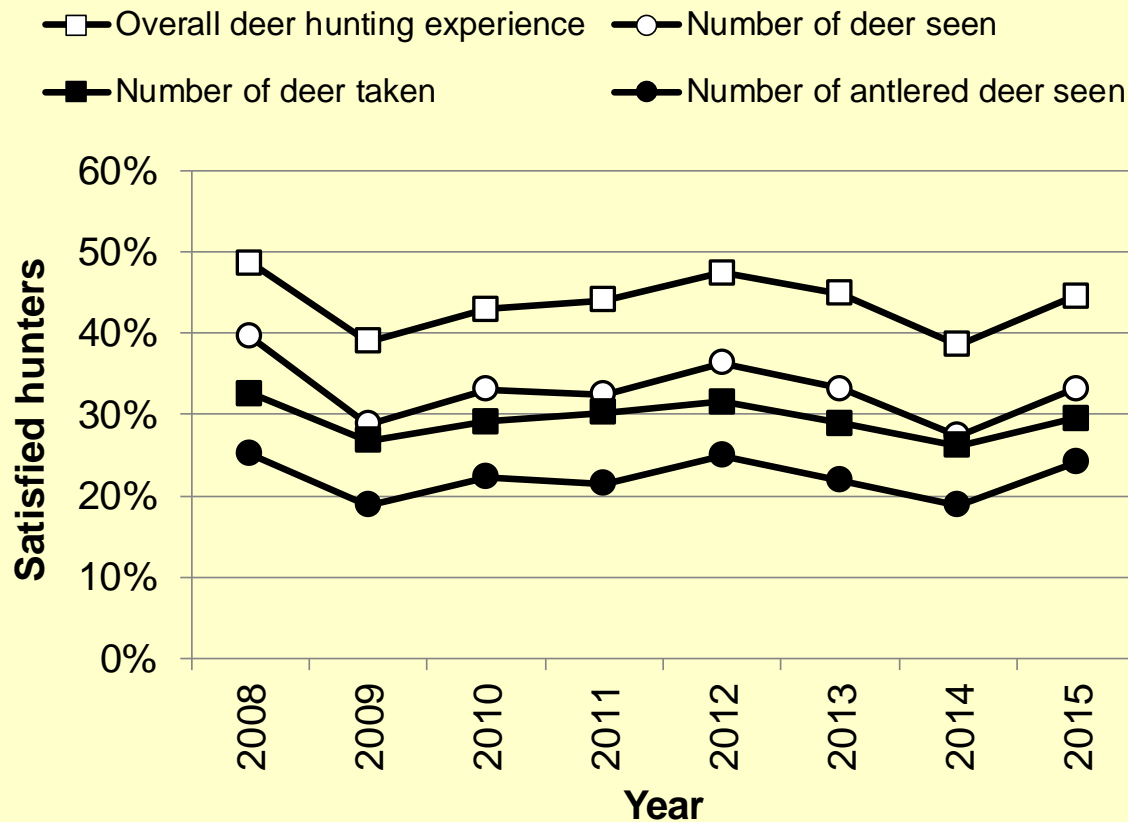
Satisfaction variable	2014	2015	Difference between 2014 and 2015
Number of deer seen	27	33	6%*
Number of antlered deer (bucks) seen	19	24	5%*
Overall deer hunting experience	39	45	6%*
Number of deer harvested	26	30	3%*

\*Statistically significant change.





# Proportion of hunters satisfied with the number of deer seen, deer harvested, and their overall deer hunting experience, 2008-2015 (8 years)



# Estimated Proportion of Hunters Supporting the Antler Point Restrictions In the UP, Summarized by Hunt Area

Preferred Hunt Area	Level of support (%)		
	Support	Oppose	Not sure
Statewide	62	15	22
Upper Peninsula	64	27	9
Northern Lower Peninsula	61	16	23
Southern Lower Peninsula	63	12	25



# Estimated Proportion of Hunters Supporting the Antler Point Restrictions In DMU 487, Summarized by Hunt Area

Preferred Hunt Area	Level of support (%)		
	Support	Oppose	Not sure
Statewide	50	15	35
Upper Peninsula	34	17	49
Northern Lower Peninsula	54	17	29
Southern Lower Peninsula	51	13	36



Estimated numbers of archers using a crossbow, hunter success, and deer harvested with a crossbow during 2015 archery season, summarized by region.

Region	Archers using crossbow		Hunter success	Deer harvested
	%	Total		
Statewide	58	185,632	32	65,988





Estimated numbers of archers using a crossbow, hunter success, and deer harvested with a crossbow during 2015 archery season, summarized by region.

Region	Archers using crossbow		Hunter success	Deer harvested
	%	Total		
Statewide	58	185,632	32	65,988
Upper Peninsula	59	12,810	17	2,112
Northern Lower Peninsula	64	67,034	31	23,133
Southern Lower Peninsula	55	87,702	35	34,410
Unknown	55	18,086	28	6,306



# Statewide Overview

- Fewer license buyers (-1.5%) and fewer harvest tags sold (-1.9%)
- Fewer hunters went afield (-1.2%)
- Similar hunting success (42% in 2015 versus 41%)
- Similar harvest (328,681 in 2015 versus 322,367)
- Higher satisfaction with the number of deer seen, the number of bucks seen, overall hunting experience, and deer harvested (all increased by at least 3 percentage points)



# Statewide Overview

- 62% of hunters statewide and 64% of UP hunters supported UP buck harvest restrictions (higher than last year)
- 50% of hunters statewide and 58% of NELP hunters supported DMU 487 buck harvest restrictions (slightly higher than last year)
- 58% of archers used a crossbow during the archery season, and they harvested 65,988 deer (archers using crossbows increased by 6% and their harvest increased 11%)



# Thank You

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